

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /162 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3065

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS

SUBJ: KING VISITS SOUTH

1. FROM SEPT. 1-3, KING HASSAN TOURED SOUTH OF MOROCCO, ACCOMPANIED BY PRIME MINISTER AND LARGE ENTOURAGE OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY BIG WIGS. KING ARRIVED IN AGADIR AND MET WITH NOTABLES OF SAHARA TRIBES. HE ALSO VISITED YOUSSEF IBN TASHFIN DAM, AND PROMISED VISIT TO EXTREME SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF TARFAYA IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. IN SPEECH TO AGADIR AND TARFAYA MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERS, HE STRESSED HIS WISH TO SEE SOUTHERN REGIONS DEVELOPED AND NOTED THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED AGADIR AND TARFAYA GOVERNORS TO PRESENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO HIM NO LATER THAN END CURRENT YEAR. KING HOPED THAT MOROCCO WOULD NOT BE COMPELLED TO USE FORCE IN ACHIEVING ITS ENDS IN SAHARA AND THAT "OFFI-
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CIALS WITH WHOM DIALOGUE NOW TAKING PLACE" WOULD SHOW "WISDOM

AND CLEAR-SIGHTEDNESS." HE HOPED EQUALLY THAT "EVIL FORCES," WHICH ARE "MANIPULATED BY VILE FOREIGN INTERESTS" AND WHICH "DENY MOSLEM VALUES," WOULD NOT SUCCEED IN SOWING DISCORD AMONG MOSLEM BROTHERS. SPEECH WAS HEADLINED IN SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS AS "SEVERE WARNING TO ENEMIES OF MOROCCAN CAUSE."

3. IN ADDRESS TO SAHARA NOTABLES EARLIER IN DAY, HE INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED TO SEND GROUP OF SAHARA RELIGIOUS MEN (SHURAF) TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS CEREMONY (MOUSSEM) IN TETOUAN. (RADIO GAVE MAJOR PLAY SEPTEMBER 4 TO ARRIVAL THESE MEN, WHO, IT SAID, REPRESENTED RGUIBAT TRIBE OF SAHARA, AT MOUSSEM AND TO FIERY SPEECH OF THEIR LEADER.) KING EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "MEETING DATE WITH OUR SUBJECTS IN SAKIAT EL HAMRA AND OUEDI AD DAHAB" WAS APPROACHING. ATTENDANCE OF SOUTHERNERS AT MOUSSEM IN TETOUAN, HE SAID, WAS CONCRETE MANIFESTATION OF UNITY EXISTING BETWEEN ALL REGIONS OF COUNTRY.

4. DECISION TO MAKE VISIT TO REGION APPARENTLY TAKEN AT LAST MINUTE AS CUSTOMARY EXHAUSTIVE MEDIA COVERAGE, NOTABLY TELEVISION FILMING TEAM, HAD NOT BEEN LAID ON. BIG DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND SENDING OF SOUTHERNERS TO CEREMONY IN FORMER CAPITAL OF SPANISH MOROCCO ARE PART OF UPSURGE IN KING'S SAHARA CAMPAIGN. NORTH-SOUTH THEME WAS DEVELOPED OVER WEEKEND WHEN SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA MADE MUCH OF EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO'S SAHARA IRREDENTISM BY GROUP OF MOROCCANS LIVING IN MELILLA, ONE OF SPAIN'S TWO ENCLAVES IN NORTH.

5. MEANWHILE, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS SEPT. 4 REPORTS IN ITEM DATED MADRID THAT SPAIN IS UNDERTAKING ACCELERATED CENSUS IN SAHARA IN PREPARATION FOR REFERENDUM. PRESS ALSO REPORTS GOM AMBASSADOR IN MADRID, ABDELATIF KHATIB, IS TO RETURN TO MOROCCO BUT WILL BE REPLACED SHORTLY BY ANOTHER AMBASSADOR.
COON

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